

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
Phone: (502) 582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277
E-mail: nass-ky@nass.usda.gov
and the
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Billy Ray Smith, Commissioner

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FEATURING: ▶ Agricultural Prices ▶ Farm Labor ▶ Slaughter ▶ Cattle on Feed
 ▶ Chickens & Eggs ▶ Cold Storage ▶ Milk Production

LIVESTOCK AND CROP PRICES DECLINE

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-August were down from last month for both livestock and crops. Compared to a year earlier, livestock prices were up, while crop prices were down.

Steer and heifer prices for mid-August averaged \$85.00 per cwt. \$1.00 below the July price of \$86.00 per cwt., while up \$14.00 from the price a year ago. **Beef cow** prices declined \$2.00 from July to the mid-August price of \$38.00 per cwt. The mid-August price was \$3.00 above last year's August price of \$35.00 per cwt. The mid-August **calf** price of \$99.00 per cwt. was down from the July price of \$102.00 per cwt., but up \$20.00 from last August.

Barrow and gilt prices averaged \$40.00 per cwt. at mid-August, down \$6.00 from July, but ahead of last year's price of \$35.00 per cwt. Prices received for **sows** was unchanged from the July price of \$35.00 per cwt. This was up \$12.00 per cwt. from the last August price of \$23.00 per cwt.

All milk price at \$13.90 was down from the July price of \$14.40, while up from last year's \$13.50 per cwt.

Prices received for **corn** decreased from the July's price of \$1.85 per bushel to the mid-August price of \$1.65 per bushel. The mid-August price was also down 30 cents from a year ago. This was the lowest corn price since February 1987. **Soybean** prices at \$4.55 per bushel were down 11 cents from last month and 13 cents from August a year ago. Soybeans were at their lowest price in nine months. **Winter wheat** prices averaged \$2.05 per bushel for mid-August, down from the July price of \$2.10 per bushel and the August 1999 price of \$2.16 per bushel. This was the lowest winter wheat price in ten months.

The **U.S.** preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 97 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the July index. Lower prices for broilers, cattle, hogs, and corn more than offset price increases for eggs, tomatoes, sweet corn, and grapes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset lower marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes kept the index from falling one more point.

Compared with August 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 2 points (2.0 percent) lower. Price decreases from August 1999 for milk, corn, broilers, and oranges more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, sweet corn, and calves.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		AUG 1999	JULY 2000	AUG 2000	AUG 2000
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	1.95	1.85	1.65	1.48
Soybeans b/	Bu.	4.68	4.66	4.55	4.38
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	2.16	2.10	2.05	2.21
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	120.00	100.00	100.00	83.90
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	78.00	65.00	65.00	68.50
All Hogs	Cwt.	34.50	45.60	39.80	44.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	35.00	46.00	40.00	45.00
Sows	Cwt.	23.00	35.00	35.00	34.20
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	62.40	75.00	73.70	65.10
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	71.00	86.00	85.00	67.70
Cows	Cwt.	35.00	40.00	38.00	38.60
Calves f/	Cwt.	79.00	102.00	99.00	105.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.50	14.40	13.90	12.50
Fluid g/	Cwt.	13.50	14.40	- -	12.50
Manufactured	Cwt.	13.60	10.00	- -	10.60
Hog-Corn Ratios h/	Bu.	17.7	24.6	24.1	30.0

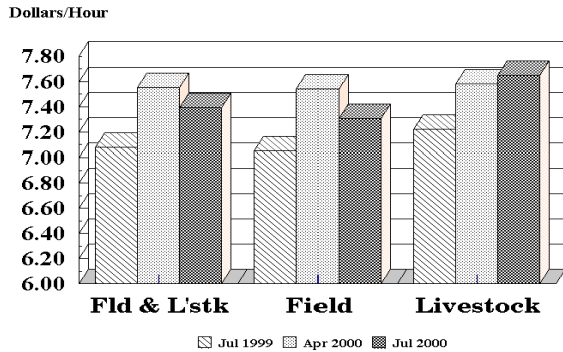
a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. h/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 7 PERCENT, WAGES UP 4 PERCENT

There were 1.37 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 9-15, 2000, down 7 percent from a year ago. There were 1.08 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 11.1 percent of the July hired workforce compared to 12.4 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$7.89 per hour during the July 2000 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.32 per hour, up 27 cents from last July.

U.S. Wage Rates by Type of Worker

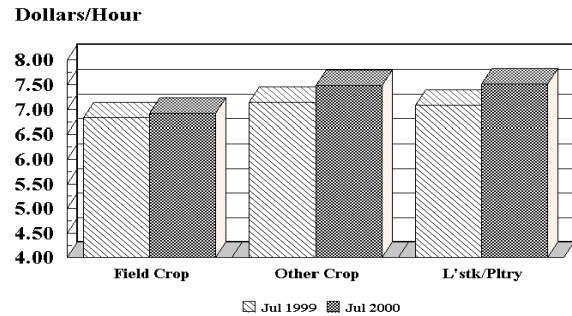


Livestock workers earned \$7.65 per hour compared with \$7.22 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock workers combined wage rate was up 31 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 42,000 during the week of July 9-15, 2000.

Field workers in the region were paid \$6.55 per hour compared to \$6.25 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$6.83 per hour compared to \$6.57 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$6.95.

Wage Rate of Field & Livestock Workers By Type of Farm



RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.64 billion pounds in July, down 4 percent from the 3.78 billion pounds produced in July 1999. July 1999 contained 22 weekdays and 5 Saturdays. July 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. **Beef production**, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 4 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,220 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.41 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.36 million head, 7 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	July 1999	June 2000	July 2000	July 00 % of	
				July 1999	June 2000
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,256	2,369	2,202	98	93
Veal	19	19	18	98	98
Pork	1,489	1,536	1,408	95	92
Lamb & Mutton	17	17	16	91	91
Total U.S.	3,781	*3,941	3,643	96	92
Total Kentucky	34.3	34.9	31.3	91	90

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. * Revised.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. JULY 1999 & 2000 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
1,000 head			1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	0.9	0.8	777	712	848	858
Hogs	175.9	158.9	45,387	41,069	258	258
Sheep & Lambs	0.9	1.0	122	151	139	158
United States						
Cattle	3,082.9	2,962.1	3,717,527	3,613,481	1,206	1,220
Hogs	7,907.6	7,356.3	2,025,988	1,904,912	256	259
Sheep & Lambs	265.2	243.2	34,937	31,577	132	130

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.18 million head on August 1, 2000. The inventory was 11 percent above August 1, 1999 and 13 percent above August 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.92 million, 6 percent above 1999 but 1 percent below 1998. Net placements were 1.87 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 424,000, 600-699 pounds were 366,000, 700-799 pounds were 597,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.08 million, 2 percent below 1999 but 1 percent above 1998. July 2000 had one less slaughter day than July 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings.

Other disappearance totaled 44,000 during July, 15 percent below 1999 and 12 percent below 1998.

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

Cattle on feed August 1, 2000, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.81 million, up 12 percent from the previous year and 14 percent above August 1, 1998.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.67 million, 7 percent above 1999 but slightly below 1998.

Marketings during July totaled 1.78 million, 2 percent below 1999 but 2 percent above 1998. July 2000 had one less slaughter day than July 1999, which limited slaughter and affected the year-to-year relationship for marketings.

Other disappearance during July was 37,000 head, 14 percent below 1999 and 10 percent below 1998.

1/AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	July 1999	July 2000	July '00 as % of July '99
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,903	7,056	102
Average Layers (000)	319,811	325,670	102
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,158	2,167	100
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	29,354	29,953	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	34,275	33,091	97
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	626,501	614,200	98
Chicks Hatched (000)	751,627	739,892	98

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2000, were greater than year earlier levels for fruit, red meat, potatoes and orange juice concentrate. Cooler stocks of pecans and apples were also higher than a year earlier.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				July 2000 as % of	
Commodity	July 31 1999	June 30 2000	July 31 2000	July 1999	June 2000
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	33,819	45,913	35,983	106	78
Other Chicken	828,087	767,570	777,440	94	101
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	872,268	821,632	821,417	94	100
Turkey	599,013	503,620	520,097	87	103
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,476,616	1,330,798	1,346,568	91	101
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	292,722	380,269	366,128	125	96
Pork:					
Bellies	69,675	60,524	50,516	73	83
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	494,616	487,295	473,884	96	97
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	810,377	893,682	862,980	106	97

1/ Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. 2/ Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. 3/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, spareribs trimmings, and other frozen pork. 4/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for July 2000 totaled 133 million pounds, up 2 percent from July 1999 and unchanged from June 2000. Average number of cows on farms, at 133,000, was up 1,000 head from a year earlier and up 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,000 pounds, up 15 pounds from last year and down 10 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during July totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 5.0 percent

from production in these same States in July 1999. This increase is magnified by unusually hot temperatures during July 1999 which lowered milk production per cow. June revised production, at 12.1 billion pounds was up 2.9 percent from June 1999. The June revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 13 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,557 pounds for July, 59 pounds above July 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.83 million head, 83,000 head more than July 1999 and 24,000 head more than June 2000.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR JULY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>1/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2000 as % of 1999
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,467	1,527	1,715	1,825	2,516	2,787	111
IL	122	120	1,310	1,430	160	172	108
IN	136	151	1,325	1,450	180	219	122
KY	132	133	985	1,000	130	133	102
MO	157	154	1,020	1,210	160	186	116
OH	260	263	1,460	1,475	380	388	102
VA	120	120	1,185	1,265	142	152	107
WI	1,368	1,347	1,420	1,450	1,943	1,953	101
20 State							
Total	7,751	7,834	1,498	1,557	11,610	12,195	105

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

STATE STATISTICIAN
LELANE E. BROWN

DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WILLIAM BRANNEN



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 1120
Louisville, KY 40201
502-582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277

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